

GLOSSOP-DALE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL * REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1903.



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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE GLOSSOP-DALE RURAL DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

As usual, on these occasions, I present you with copies of the Urban report, in which I have discussed, to the best of my ability, the causes leading to filth disease in an Urban population. In your more Rural population, fortunately, we keep very free from epidemic disease. The problem of soil pollution in the neighbourhood of houses is, however, still with us.

Geologically, your district does not differ greatly from the Borough. Your district occupies the South-Eastern bank of the Etherow in such parts of it as are not occupied by the Borough.

In the more populous parts of the district the people are largely employed in cotton mills or printworks, and some in the manufacture of hats outside the district. There are some railway servants. In the more Rural parts of the district, however, the people are chiefly farmers or farm labourers.

Water Supply.

There are six reservoirs belonging to Lord Howard of Glossop for the supply of the more populous parts of the district. In the less populous parts of the district the supply for farmhouses, &c., is chiefly from wells. The rock on which the district is situated being hard and impervious, there are, I

think, no deep wells. The same hardness of rock causes a fair abundance of shallow wells. Shallow wells require careful protection, and, as pointed out in my previous reports, they are not always sufficiently protected in our district. The water, when conveyed a distance, should be so conveyed in impervious pipes.

Bye-Laws.

The Rural District has bye-laws in force for Common Lodging-houses, and for New Streets and Buildings, as well as regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and the Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-shops Order.

Filth, and Filth Diseases.

In the most nearly Urban part of your district, *i.e.*, in Ludworth, you have inaugurated a system of water carriage of Sewage, and it is to be hoped that houses will be largely connected, and water closets adopted.

I have said in the Urban report that in dense populations, or in town populations, the agricultural idea has to be given up. In Rural populations, where houses are isolated, and no water carriage available, perhaps sanitation is best attended to by adhering to the agricultural idea as closely as possible. Perhaps the best sanitary convenience for an isolated house is an earth closet, and I should say the ideal use of it is the daily removal of its contents to be buried in the soil. Of course, in a case of Typhoid Fever, immediate burial of urine and fæces, when (as is usually the case) means for boiling or burning are not available, is essential. In ordinary cases, however, when the above ideal is not attainable, the nearest approach to it is the best.

The privy midden, with wet ashpit, into which salmon tins, and other rubbish are thrown, is neither good for agriculture nor sanitation. Ashpits should be covered to keep the rain out, and have impervious floors, preferably of concrete, and removal of decomposing and offensive matters from the neighbourhood of houses should be as frequent as possible.

There is one matter with reference to Diarrhœa which is important in a district like yours so largely devoted to farming. As Diarrhœa in its more fatal form is so largely a

disease of children, and, I should say, of hand-fed children, cleanliness in cow houses and about farm buildings may have an effect in diminishing the disease, not only in your district, but in the Borough as well. I think, also, the farmers should be especially careful to protect their milk from dust when it is in process of conveyance to market.

With reference to farm manure, it is important for sanitary reasons that it should be early removed from the neighbourhood of dwelling-houses, and even more important that it should be early removed from the neighbourhood of cow houses where milk cows are kept, and from dairies.

There are, I think, few departments of life in which an advance to a better state of things is more urgently required than in cleanliness of cow houses and dairies, and not only cleanliness of immediate surroundings, but removal of decomposing animal, and vegetable matter to as great a distance as possible.

Manure, for sanitary, as well as agricultural reasons, should be spread on the fields as soon as possible, and when this has to be delayed it should (as is, I think, done in some parts of the country) be stored in the corners of fields, as far out of harm's way as possible.

These precautions are important as preventatives of disaster, but it must be admitted that filth diseases have dealt lightly with us this year. We have had no deaths from Typhoid Fever or Diarrhœa, which, in the absence of Cholera, are the chief filth diseases. We have not even had a death from Enteritis, which is very similar to Diarrhœa. We have had two cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever, which occurred in the parish of Charlesworth, on the borders of the Borough. They were removed to Chinley Hospital, and have made a good recovery.

In 1902 there were 6 cases of the disease, with 1 death. In 1901 there were 2 cases, and in 1900 2 cases.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.

There were 5 deaths from Phthisis in 1903, giving a death-rate of 1·20 per thousand. In 1902 there were 3 deaths, giving a death-rate of 0·72 per thousand. In 1901 there were 3 deaths.

In 1903 we have had 4 deaths from other Tubercular Diseases, from which we had no deaths in 1901 or 1902.

In this connection we must remember our wet and comparatively cold summer.

We have had, however, fewer deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia than in 1902.

Probably, as I remarked in my Urban Report, these diseases are largely due to alternations of heat and cold.

Erysipelas.

We have had 3 cases of Erysipelas notified in 1903, as against 3 in 1902; 2 in 1901; and 3 in 1900.

AIR-BORNE DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

We have had 7 cases of this disease in 1903, viz.—5 in Charlesworth, and 2 in Ludworth. 3 cases were removed to Chinley Hospital.

We had 32 cases in 1902; 7 cases in 1901, and 15 cases in 1900.

We have had no Death from this disease this year.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

We have had no cases of these diseases in 1903. There was one case of Membranous Croup in 1902, 4 cases of Diphtheria in 1901, and one case in 1900.

Facilities are afforded by the kindness of the County Council for Bacteriological Examinations, in cases of Typhoid and Diphtheria, at the University of Birmingham.

The power of removing cases of notifiable disease, other than Small-Pox, to Chinley Infectious Hospital, is a great advantage, but access to a Steam Disinfector nearer home would be an additional advantage.

The Infectious Diseases' Notification Act has now been in force for four years. I recommend the adoption of the Infectious Diseases' Prevention Act of 1890.

With the exception, I think, of two cases of Erysipelas that I left to the Inspector, I have personally visited every case of notifiable disease.

Directions have been given for the usual precautions.

SMALL-POX.

In combating this disease to the best of my ability within the Borough, I have been fighting your battle as well. Extension in the Borough would most probably have meant extension into your district. I am happy to say that you have now made arrangements with Hyde for the reception of any cases that may occur, and that you have also decided to employ other drastic measures in case of invasion. In such an emergency access to a near Steam Disinfector would be most valuable.

The only case that occurred within your borders was that of a servant at the Borough Infectious Hospital at Gamesley, who refused to be re-vaccinated. She was least exposed of the Staff, but the disease singled her out. She had been vaccinated in childhood, but refused re-vaccination. She had a severe attack, but recovered.

Altogether there were 13 cases of Notifiable Diseases in the district during the year.

Visits paid by Medical Officer in addition to Visits to Infectious Cases.

On March 12th I visited and inspected property in Cottage Lane, Gamesley. This district requires immediate attention as regards Sewage disposal.

On May 21st I visited Higher Woodseats, and inspected water supply.

On May 27th I visited Hollins Lane, and inspected a building.

On July 28th I inspected alterations in sanitary conveniences previously recommended at Marple Bridge.

On Sept. 25th I inspected and measured Cow-houses at Lower Blackshaw.

On October 3rd I visited Marple Bridge to ascertain if certain home-work was done in our district, and found it was not.

On December 22nd I visited Chinley Hospital.

NUISANCES ABATED.

The Inspector reports 85 notices served for abatement of Nuisances, and reports abatement in 77 cases.

Dairies and Cow-Sheds.

There are 71 on the register. The Inspector has made 30 inspections.

Bake-houses.

There are 4 in the district, *i.e.*, 2 in Charlesworth and 2 in Ludworth. The Inspector has made 8 visits, and reports them clean and satisfactory.

Slaughter-houses.

There is 1 in Charlesworth, and 1 in Marple Bridge.

The Inspector has paid 6 visits, and reports them satisfactory.

Workshops.

There are 16 workshops on the register.

The Inspector has made 15 visits, and reports them satisfactory.

The Inspector disinfected 6 houses on account of Scarlet Fever, and 1 on account of Consumption.

STATISTICS.

The Area of the District	... ..	17,893 acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses (census 1901)...		922
Average number of persons per house	...	4·5
Population (census 1901)	... ..	4151

The births in the district during 1903 were 47 boys and 37 girls, giving a total of 84. The rate per thousand was 20·2.

The nett deaths in the district during 1903 were 58, giving a death rate of 13·9.

The deaths of children under 1 year were 7, giving a death rate per thousand births of 83 3.

Between the census of 1891 and that of 1901 there was a decrease of population of 230.

The excess of births over deaths in 1903 was 26, giving a natural rate of increase of 0·626 per cent., as against 0·216 in 1902 and 0·602 in 1901.

There is a well-known tendency to migrate from country districts into towns, so it seems safer to reckon upon a stationary population, as I have done, than to estimate on an increase.

The census population of Charlesworth was 1967

Deaths in 1903	...	...	...	28
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	14·2

Population of Chisworth ... 409

Deaths in 1903	...	...	...	5
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	12·2

Population of Ludworth ... 1775

Deaths in 1903	...	...	...	25
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	14·0

The deaths in the whole district from classified diseases were as follows :—

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	3
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	5
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	4
Cancer and other Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	2

Alcoholism or Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	8
Suicides	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Leaving for non-classified Diseases	...	...	...	...	23

There were no deaths from Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Croup, Typhus, Enteric or other Continued Fever, Cholera, Plague, Diarrhœa, Enteritis, Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas, other Septic Diseases, other Diseases of Respiratory Organs than those mentioned, Venereal Diseases, or Accidents.

The Birth, Death, and Infantile Death rates for the last eight years were as follows :—

		Birth Rate.		Death Rate.		Infantile Death Rate.
1896	...	25·5	...	20·1	...	165
1897	...	21·2	...	14·8	...	155
1898	...	23·4	...	13·0	...	80·8
1899	...	21·4	...	13·8	...	166·6
1900	...	21·8	...	13·4	...	76·9
1901	...	21·4	...	15·4	...	101·1
1902	...	16·3	...	14·2	...	102·9
1903	...	20·2	...	13·9	...	83·3

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

DUNCAN J. MACKENZIE, M.D.

Loch Maree House,
Glossop,
February 4th, 1904.